

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 11-13, 18, 23, 38, 42 have been amended, and claims 7-9, 19-21, 32-37, 39-41, 43-54 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-6, 10-18, 22-31, 38, and 42 are pending, although claim 30 is pending and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 46-54 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the § 103 rejections, Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite the features present in claims 46-54. Thus, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant also requests rejoinder of claim 30, there now being an allowable generic claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention defined by the amended claims herein is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

TANAKA, S. et al.
Appl. No. 10/689,073
November 15, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Mah', written over a horizontal line.

Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:jr
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100